

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

**Pages 1-2, amend the bridging paragraph as follows:**

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For remote maintenance and/or diagnosis, a special data connection is required between an automation system and a remote user intending to perform remote maintenance and/or diagnosis. Due to this special data connection that needs to be provided, remote maintenance and/or diagnosis is associated with high costs. Within corporate communications networks, data connections to an Intranet are ~~frequently~~ frequent, i.e., to an internal corporate data network and/or to a worldwide data network, for instance the Intranet. The internal data network is usually protected against the outside by a protective barrier, a so-called firewall, i.e., the data environment within the internal corporate communications network cannot be accessed from outside the internal communications network. If data within the communications network is to be accessed from outside the firewall, a stand-alone computer must normally be installed outside the firewall. U.S. Pat. No. 5,715,393, for instance, discloses a method for remote computer system monitoring via electronic mail.

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